FALL 2021

Canadian Irish Studies Foundation

FUNDAMENTALS

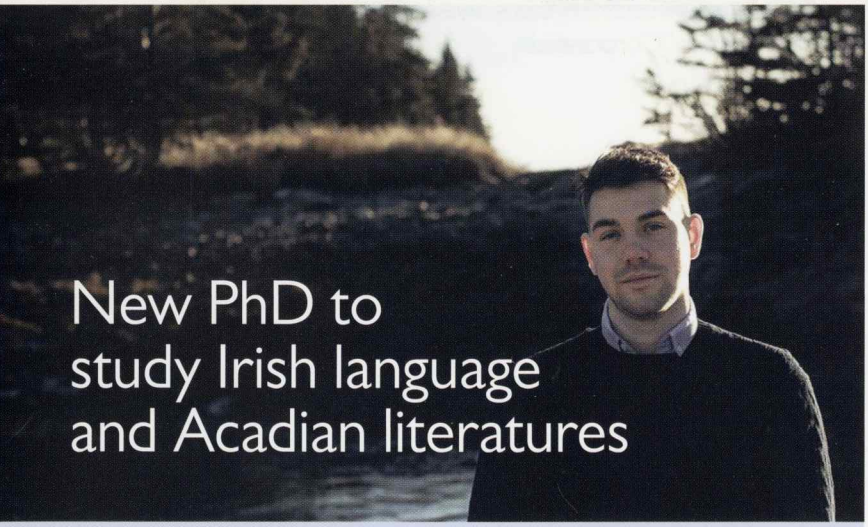
NEWSLETTER FOR FRIENDS OF IRISH STUDIES

Foundation support helps to create new professorship

The Canadian Irish Studies Foundation (CISF) will provide seed money for the first five years to appoint a professor in Irish literature at the School of Irish Studies. Advertised internationally, the position is expected to be filled by August 2022.

Ireland's rich literary tradition is fundamental to Irish Studies, touching on numerous subjects in the multidisciplinary programs offered by the School, including history, politics, society, culture and geography.

"The foundation is very pleased to partner with Concordia University in this crucial step in the development of the School," said CISF chair Pamela McGovern.



New PhD to study Irish language and Acadian literatures

Dublin native **Dean Farrell** began his doctoral studies at Concordia in September 2021 in the Humanities PhD program, with financial support from the university and the CISF.

Working with Máirtín Coilféir, assistant professor at the School of Irish Studies, Farrell studies comparative aspects of Irish language and Acadian literatures. He also researches the literatures of other lesser-spoken French dialects as well as gender, sexuality and decoloniality.

(Continued inside)

Top academic award for Irish Studies students

Two students received the Dean's Award for overall academic excellence in 2020-21:

Lily MacLean, now in her final year of a BA, major in Irish Studies, is passionate about Irish language and music, especially the tradition of Seán Nós singing. She is considering pursuing an MA with professor and Irish ethnomusicologist Gearóid Ó hAllmhuráin. During her degree, she received the United Irish Societies and D'Arcy McGee scholarships, as well as the Brian O'Neill Gallery Tuition Award. In 2019, she was awarded the prestigious Gus O'Gorman Irish Language Scholarship to study during the summer in Ireland's Gaeltacht in Connemara. While COVID prevented MacLean from travelling, she looks forward to doing so as soon as possible.

Charlotte St-Pierre recently completed her first year in Irish Studies, having received the Brian O'Neill Gallery Tuition Award in both semesters. "So far, this program has been challenging and occasionally intimidating, yet also deeply rewarding. I've learned more about Irish mythology and ancient history than I dared to dream, and my curiosity, far from being satisfied, has only grown," she says.

"My teachers in Irish Studies are the most informed and passionate about their subjects. That's not to say it's easy — I don't think I've ever struggled more with workload and time management. Yet having pushed through those struggles to do well each semester has proven to me that I'm far more capable than I believed, which I think is the most important takeaway from my experience."

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CANADIAN IRISH STUDIES FOUNDATION FUNDAMENTALS

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BOARD NEWS

New trustee Patrick S. Lynch

Patrick Lynch is partner and head of private equity at Fiera Comox. Previously, he was head of funds and partnerships at Caisse de dépôt et placement du Québec. He was a founding member of the private equity business at sovereign fund Mubadala Development Company in Abu Dhabi. Lynch has also worked as an investment professional at TD Capital Private Equity Investors and as a management consultant with Mercer Management Consulting.

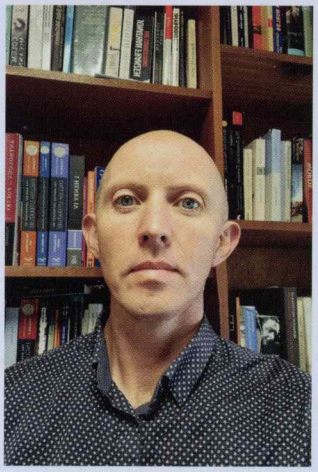
He sits on the board of directors of Golden Pear Funding and has held directorships on the boards at Verno Capital, Masdar Capital and Raine Group.

"I am thrilled to be part of the board and supporting a world-class Irish Studies program. Connecting and contributing to the community is important to me, and I see the CISF's work with the School of Irish Studies as key in that respect," says Lynch, a native of the Williamstown area in southeastern Ontario. Lynch holds a bachelor of commerce with first-class honours from McGill University and an MBA from Harvard Business School.

Ken Anderson appointed treasurer

A native of Ireland's County Offaly, Ken Anderson is an accountant who holds an executive MBA in international financial services and insurance, jointly provided by Vlerick Business School (Belgium) and University of St. Gallen (Switzerland). He is senior vice-president of investor relations and corporate development at Intact Financial Corporation.

Incoming Peter O'Brien Visiting Scholar



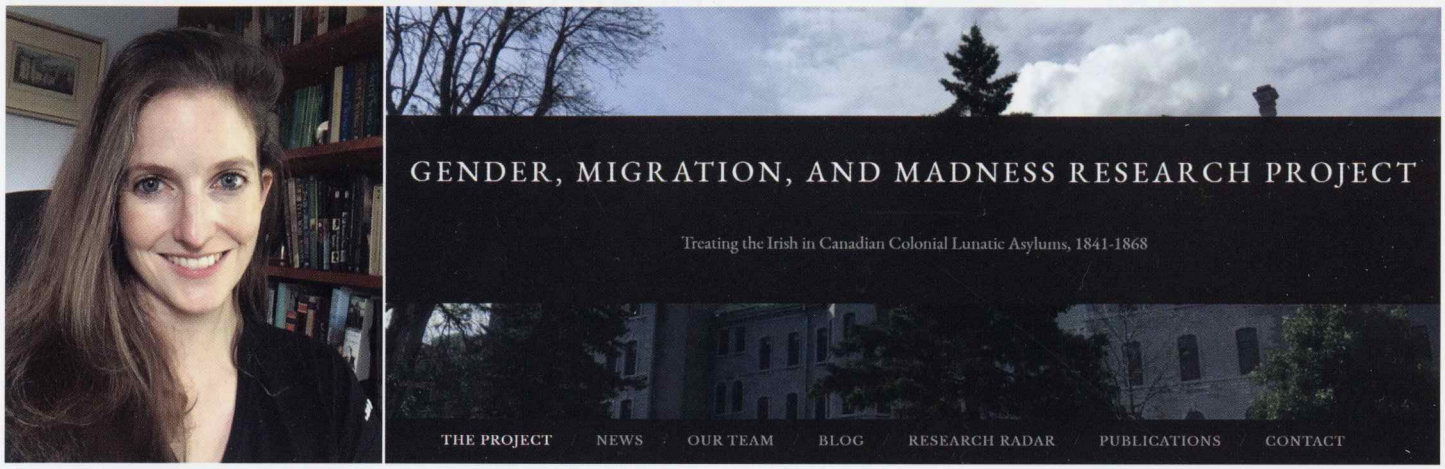
The School of Irish Studies will welcome **Eóin Flannery** in fall 2022 as the 18th Peter O'Brien Visiting Scholar at Concordia. Flannery is a lecturer in the Department of English Language and Literature at Mary Immaculate College, University of Limerick.

Flannery holds a BA in English and history and an MA in culture and colonialism from the National University of Ireland, Galway.

On completion of his PhD at the University of Limerick, he lectured there for two years before spending eight years in the U.K. at Oxford Brookes University. Flannery has published over 60 scholarly articles and book chapters and is the author of five books. He is also working on an Irish Research Council-funded project: Irish Studies and the Economic Humanities.

Flannery looks forward to drawing upon his research on both Irish ecocritical writing and contemporary Irish fiction in the Celtic Tiger period to teach two literature courses. He will also give a talk in the Irish Public Lecture Series.

Research: the Irish in Canadian colonial lunatic asylums



Jane McGaughey, the Johnson Chair in Quebec and Canadian Irish Studies, has launched a new research website: Gender, Migration, and Madness (GMM) Research Project – Treating the Irish in Canadian Colonial Lunatic Asylums, 1841-1868 (***gendermigrationandmadness.ca***).

The GMM project examines how the medical treatment of the Irish in mid-19th-century Canadian lunatic asylums was framed by considerations of gender, migration, ethnicity, sexuality and colonial presumptions about mental illness. While notable scholarly attention has been given to the confined Irish in the U.K., Australia and New Zealand, there has been a significant lack of Canadian focus on Irish asylum admissions during the era of the Great Famine.

The project's focus so far has been on four institutional case studies: the Beauport Lunatic Asylum outside Quebec City, the quarantine hospital on Grosse Île, Que., the Provincial Lunatic Asylum in Toronto and the Rockwood Lunatic Asylum for the Criminally Insane in Kingston, Ont.

McGaughey and her graduate-student research assistants hope to explore many themes, including what significance the Great Irish Famine had on rates of confinement in the Canadian asylum system and how stories of the Irish in Canadian colonial lunatic asylums compare with other parts of the Irish diaspora.

The project's goal is to bring more attention to Irish-Canadian experiences of institutionalization between the Famine and Canadian Confederation to highlight the connections between colonial-era migration, gender and "madness." By doing this, McGaughey will reveal new histories about what it meant to be Irish in pre-Confederation Quebec and Canada.

Each week, the website features a new blog post from the research team about different aspects of the project. The Research Radar section provides quick reflections on academic life from established scholars, early-career researchers, friends of the project and graduate students, many of whom are from the School of Irish Studies. Along with the website, you can follow the project on Twitter (@GMMProject) and Instagram (@gendermigrationmadness).

The project is supported in part by the Johnson Chair and an Insight Development Grant from the Social Sciences and Humanities Research Council of Canada.

McGaughey will also launch a podcast series on the Irish in Quebec and Canada, debuting on the School of Irish Studies' SoundCloud page in January 2022. The series will feature short episodes about key events and personalities from the history of the Irish in Quebec over the past three centuries. It will highlight ongoing scholarship about Irish Studies and the Irish in Quebec and Canada from academics, postdoctoral scholars and the School's graduate students.

(New PhD Dean Farrell, continued from cover)

Farrell has presented his work at various academic events, most recently at the Canadian Association for Irish Studies Conference and An Seimineár Dána, the first-ever Irish-language gender and sexuality studies conference, both in June 2021.

As the Ireland Canada University Foundation Scholar from 2018 to 2020, Farrell taught the Irish language at St. Thomas University in Fredericton, N.B.

He holds a BA in Modern Irish and French and an MA in Modern Irish from University College Dublin.

Farrell is interested in poetry, performance and theatre. He is a member of the artist co-op Aerach Aiteach Gaelach and has participated in Bród na Gaeilge, or Irish-language pride events, since 2017.

Winter 2022 courses

What's that tune?
A music appreciation course in Irish traditional music

Instructor: ***Kate Bevan Baker****, PhD 18, GrCert 19*

This course is dedicated to understanding traditional Irish music performance and practices. It will foster students' music appreciation skills by examining the repertoire, instruments, playing techniques and performance practices of this complex genre, which is both ancient and contemporary. Three critical domains of traditional Irish music will be explored: ethnomusicological, spatial and compositional.

The Irish Troubles in film & TV

Instructor: ***Patrick Brodie****, PhD 21*

This course will introduce students to the complex film and media landscape associated with the Northern Ireland conflict. Students will explore how news media and documentaries have presented the many sides of the 1972 Bloody Sunday massacre, analyzing Hollywood representations of nationalist and loyalist communities, learning the role of political solidarity through film and media and questioning the recent increased media focus on the aftermath of the Northern Ireland conflict in the post-Brexit period.

Irish materialities: critical perspectives on spaces, places and things

Instructor: ***Molly-Claire Gillett****, current PhD student*

This introductory interdisciplinary course will examine a series of Irish "things" to forge a more inclusive plurality of Irish identities. It will focus on one particular thing each week, for example, an illustrated manuscript; an uncompleted housing project or "ghost estate" which became prevalent during the Irish recession of the late 2000s; a bog as a cultural and natural ecosystem; and a piece of lace, tracked from its maker in rural Ireland to the body of Queen Victoria.

ALSO OFFERED IN WINTER 2022:

The Irish in Canada

Research methods in Irish Studies

The global Irish

The Great Irish Famine

Ireland in the Atlantic world

Indigenous language and national literature in Ireland

Irish songs of exile in North America

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Anniversary Campaign hits $468,000!

Thanks to the extraordinary support of many generous donors, our Anniversary Campaign is within sight of its $500,000 goal. Our most recent major donors include:

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**In honour of the late Brian Gallery*

"I am grateful to all our wonderful donors for helping the Canadian Irish Studies Foundation support students in Irish Studies and partner with Concordia in developing the School. I thank the board of directors and acknowledge the generous donation from the Molson Foundation. Their support is a recognition of the diversity of students in the School of Irish Studies and the broad community impact of its academic and outreach programs."

– Pamela McGovern, chair, Canadian Irish Studies Foundation

Donations honouring Brian Gallery reach $68,000

Canadian National Railway contributes $15,000

In an extraordinary outpouring of affection and respect for Brian Gallery, BA 57, LLD 10, donations continue to be made since his death earlier this year, bringing the total to over $68,000. The largest donation came from Canadian National Railway, where Gallery served as acting chairman.

"The exceptional support in memory of Brian Gallery is a powerful recognition of his achievements and demonstrates his impact on Irish Studies at Concordia. We are especially grateful to Sean Finn and Canadian National Railway for taking the lead in honouring Brian in such an impressive manner," said Pamela McGovern, chair, Canadian Irish Studies Foundation (CISF).

Since the CISF was created in 1997, Canadian National Railway has been a generous supporter. In 2006, Finn hosted a reception at Canadian National Railway for trustees of the Canadian Irish Studies Foundation, when it reached $5 million. The relationship between Canadian National Railway and the Montreal Irish community is deep and longstanding, reflecting Canadian National Railway's association with its many Irish workers over the generations, in Montreal and across Canada.

"We welcome all donations no matter how modest. To help us support Concordia's School of Irish Studies and its students, please see the donation form on the other side of this page. Thank you in advance."

– **Pamela McGovern**, chair, Canadian Irish Studies Foundation, and **Michael Kenneally**, principal, School of Irish Studies